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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WEMELS-FELDER, Armand, V. [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL). SMOLDERS, Adrianus, C., T., M. [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

(74) Agent: GROENENDAAL, Antonius, W., M.; Internationaal Octrooibureau B.V., Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

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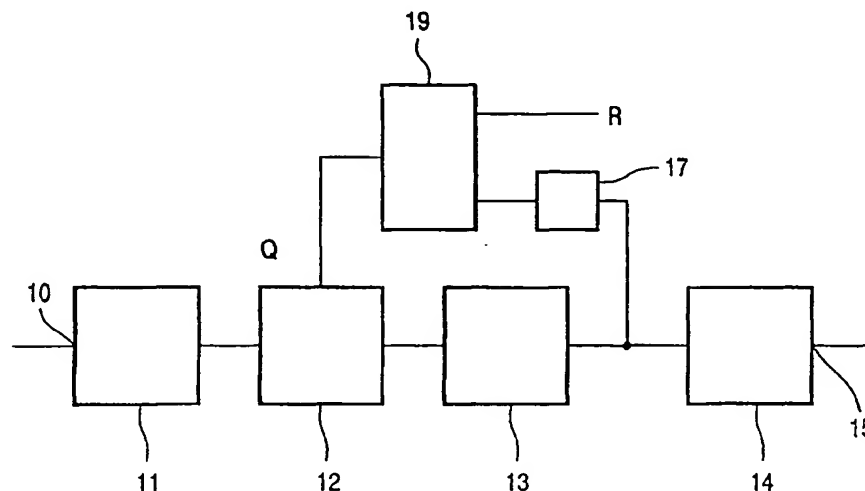
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(54) Title: IMAGE CODING USING QUANTIZER SCALE SELECTION



(57) Abstract: A video data stream is divided (11) into blocks. First quantization scales Q are determined (17, 19) for respective ones of the blocks, so that the quantization scales Q are sufficiently large to realize a predetermined compression rate. Subsequently it is determined (17, 19) whether there is a second quantization scale Q' that is larger than the first quantization scale Q for that at least one of the blocks and that results in a distortion of the at least one of the blocks that is less than or substantially equal to the distortion realized with the first quantization scale Q for the at least one of the blocks. The digital data stream is encoded (12, 13, 14) using the second quantization scale Q' for the at least one of the blocks when said second quantization scale Q' exists.

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